

NAGS HEAD LINES

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Issue 66

Fall 2007

A communications link between you and your government, this publication intends to keep you informed about the "happenings" in your town.

Message from Town Hall

The drought we've been experiencing serves as a harsh reminder of the fragility of our environment. Protecting our water is a critical first step to protecting our environment. Below you will find a few things you can do at home to conserve water. In addition, this article will also provide ways in which you can reduce your carbon footprint. As Nags Head property owners, we all have an investment in maintaining the health of our beautiful, delicate surroundings.



A Few Things You Can Do At Home to Conserve Water

Refit your plumbing.

Determine the water output of your plumbing (faucets, showers, etc.) and either replace fixtures with newer, low flow models or install water-saving devices. Showerheads in new plumbing since 1992 are required to be 2.5 gallons per minute or less.

Place a water-filled bottle in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water needed to fill it. *Using low-flow devices at the tap can reduce consumption as much as 50 percent.*

Check for leaks and repair them.

Leaks account for a significant portion of water used nationwide. In a typical home, leaks amount to about 15 percent of all household indoor water use.

If you are closing your home for the winter, be sure to turn off your water.

Check tub and sink faucets for drips and replace washers and "O-rings" as necessary. Put food coloring in your toilet tank and watch if the coloring shows up in the toilet

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Message from Town Hall
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bowl before flushing. If so, replace the leaking flap. Turn off all water to your home and look at the readout dial on your water meter. If the dial moves, you have a leak. Check pipes coming into the house for leaks and have them repaired immediately. *One undetected leak can waste 500 gallons of water per month.*

Use indoor water wisely.

Approximately half of all indoor water is used in the bathroom. The primary uses of water in the bathroom are flushing toilets and showering or bathing.

Turn off water while lathering, shampooing, shaving and brushing your teeth. *Reducing showering time to five minutes can save an average of 20 to 40 gallons of water.*

Use outdoor water wisely.

Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering. Adjust sprinklers so you aren't watering the street.

Use dry cleanup.

Dry clean up methods can be used to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use. Not only do they conserve water, dry clean up methods also protect the environment by reducing the amount of pollutants that run down the drain and enter our waterways.

Take advantage of free water.

Collect the water you would otherwise allow to run down the drain, soak into the ground or evaporate for future use.

Use appliances wisely.

Maximize your use of water consuming appliances. Choose high efficiency appliances, such as Energy

Sanitation Collection Schedule

Residential

East Route

Properties south of the intersection of Routes 12 and 1243 (Whalebone Junction) and all properties east of US 158/Croatan Highway

Summer Schedule (Begins 3rd Monday in May)
Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday
Collection begins at 3 a.m.

Winter Schedule (Begins last Monday in September)
Monday and Friday
Collection begins at 5 a.m.

West Route

Properties west of US 158 and those abutting/accessed from US 64 and 264

Same Schedule All Year

Collection: Tuesday and Friday
Collection begins at 5 a.m. (winter) and 3 a.m. (summer)

Please roll out carts facing the street the day prior to collection day and back to the house on collection day.
Having a special event and need to rent extra carts? Call Eddie Curry, Sanitation Superintendent, 252-449-4206.

Commercial

Summer Schedule (Begins 3rd Monday in May)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
Refuse collection begins at 3 a.m.

Winter Schedule (Begins last Monday in September)
Monday and Friday
Refuse collection begins at 5 a.m.

Bulk Item/Brush Drop Off Yard

Large items/brush can be dropped off throughout the year at the Town's collection site across from Public Works at 2200 Lark Avenue. Site hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Message from Town Hall
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Star rated clothes or dishwashers, when replacements are needed.

A Few Things You Can Do To Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Here's a list of simple things you can do immediately, which will start to reduce your contribution to global warming. These items will cost you no money - in fact, they will save you money.

- Turn it off when not in use (lights, television, DVD player, Hi Fi, computer etc. etc. ...)
- Turn down the central heating slightly (try just 1 to 2 degrees)
- Turn down the water heating setting (just 2 degrees will make a significant saving)
- Fill your dishwasher and washing machine with a full load - this will save your water, electricity, and detergent
- Unplug your mobile phone as soon as it has finished charging
- Defrost your fridge/freezer regularly
- Do your weekly shopping in a single trip
- Hang out the wash to dry rather than tumble drying it
- Go for a run rather than drive to the gym

Thank you for working to protect our environment.

Nags Head's Command Trailer Proves to be Valuable Public Safety Tool

Two years ago, Nags Head took a big step towards providing for the future safety of the town with the purchase of a mobile command center trailer. Built specifically for Nags Head by Surrey Fire Safety House Inc. of Ohio, the purchase of the trailer was made possible with the assistance of grant funding.

The mobile command center is fully equipped, allowing public safety personnel working in the field to accomplish tasks that normally can only be completed in an office, such as sending email or monitoring weather via the Internet. With its weather station, galley, briefing area, and light towers, the center provides all the modern conveniences needed to ensure public safety. In addition, retractable four-way surveillance cameras provide security, allowing personnel to monitor a scene from inside the center.

Since its purchase, the command trailer has been used in several capacities, but possibly its highest profile use has been acting as the command center for the annual marathon, held in November every year. In the marathon's inaugural year in 2006, all public safety needs for the duration



of the event were coordinated onsite in the command trailer. It's sophisticated array of radios allowed for timely dispatching of law enforcement during the event. Fire and emergency medical services personnel were also in direct contact with the center, helping coordinate any needed fire and medical responses.

While Nags Head has seen little in the way of hurricanes in the past few years, the command center remains busy with its public safety duties. Should you be interested in touring the trailer, it is open for tours (provided it is not deployed on assignment) during the Fire and Rescue Division's annual fire prevention week youth night, typically held the second Tuesday in October every year. Feel free to check out this important community public safety tool!



New Employee Spotlight Angela Welsh

The Planning and Development Department is pleased to announce the addition of our new town planner, Angela Welsh.

Angela graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Studies and Planning and has over ten years experience working in local government. She was previously

employed by the City of Elizabeth City as a planner and as a Geographic Information Systems/911 Coordinator for Perquimans County where she gained valuable Emergency Operations Center experience following Hurricane Isabel.

Angela began working with Nags Head in August, focusing primarily on long-term planning issues. She is currently hard at work on the Town's Land Use Plan.

Angela was born and raised in northern Virginia and has lived in eastern North Carolina for ten years. She currently resides in Elizabeth City with her daughter Rachel, her dog Shadow, and two cats. When she's not working, you can find Angela camping, kayaking, or chauffeuring her daughter back and forth to the horse stables.

Angela's knowledge and experience are a welcome addition to the Town.

Turkey Fryer Safety Tips

As the holiday season approaches, families will gather and preparations will be made for cooking the traditional turkey dinner. Some chefs will elect to deep fry the turkey instead of oven baking or grilling. Nags Head Fire and Rescue and Underwriters Laboratories would like to pass along some important facts about deep fryers and safety tips for deep frying turkeys.

Here's why using a deep-fryer can be dangerous:

- Many units easily tip over, spilling the five gallons of hot oil within the cooking pot.

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National Night Out Bringing Nags Head Neighbors

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, neighborhoods throughout Nags Head joined with communities nationwide for the 24th Annual National Night Out. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored by the Nags Head Community Watch Association and the Nags Head Police Division, National Night Out heightens crime and drug prevention awareness, generates support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and strengthens neighborhood spirit and police community relations.

A community cookout was held at Fire Station 16. Following the cookout, residents spent the evening outside with neighbors and police.



Nags Head Police Sergeant Chris Montgomery takes his new job as grill master seriously during August 2007's annual National Night Out cookout.

Turkey Fryer Safety
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- If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. Oil may hit the burner/flames causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.
- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spillover effect. This too, may result in an extensive fire.
- With no thermostat controls, the units also have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.
- The sides of the cooking pot, lid, and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, here are tips for safer use:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors at a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.

- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.
- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.

- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot, hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water don't mix, and water can cause oil to



The remnants of a fire after a turkey fryer was left unattended.

spill over, causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.

- The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing and allowing approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of bird thawed in the refrigerator.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Remember to use your best judgment when attempting to fight a fire. If the fire is manageable, use an all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call 9-1-1 for help.
- Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer.

For more information, please contact Nags Head Fire and Rescue at 252-441-5909.

Yard Debris Collection

Please remember that throughout the year we take requests for pickup of yard debris, which includes: brush, grass clippings, tree limbs, etc. Please keep in mind that tree and shrubbery trimmings must be cut in lengths of 8 feet or less. Please call the Public Works Department at 252-441-1122 to schedule an appointment for the pickup of your yard debris.

Don't Let Faulty Heating Equipment Ruin Your Winter

The home heating season is upon us, creating a need to provide warmth and personal comfort. Many serious fires and deaths occur annually in the U.S. due to improperly maintained heating equipment or use inconsistent with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Did you know that faulty or misused heating equipment is the leading cause of residential fires during the winter months, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths? Home fire deaths peak in the early evening. Almost half of home fire deaths result from fires between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., when people are generally sleeping. Home fires and deaths increase sharply in cold weather months. Nags Head Fire and Rescue would like to pass on some safety tips regarding home heating equipment to decrease the chance of an uncontrolled home fire.

Fire Detection Equipment

The first line of defense is having the proper fire detection equipment installed in the home. Each floor, each bedroom and outside each sleeping area should have a smoke detector. Change the batteries regularly and push the detector test button monthly. Replace any smoke detector over ten years old. Install a fire extinguisher on each level of the home and learn how to use it. Plan for a quick escape in case of

fire by practicing "Exit Drills in the Home" or EDITH for short. If you rely on wood burning, liquid propane (LP) gas, kerosene or oil burning heating equipment, install a carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home to alert occupants of high carbon monoxide levels.

Wood Burning Stoves and Fireplaces

Wood burning stoves and fireplaces can produce affordable heat and create a rustic atmosphere in the home. Remember to always choose seasoned hardwoods for fuel. Green or unseasoned wood, artificial logs, trash or undetermined wood scraps can contribute to rapid creosote build up and a possible chimney fire. Your chimney should be cleaned annually by a professional "chimney sweep" trained to rid the vent of dangerous creosote and dust. Uncontrolled chimney fires can ignite the chimney, roof and entire home. Under no circumstances should you ever use flammable liquids to start or renew a fire. When in operation, the fireplace opening should be protected with a metal fire screen or heat tempered glass doors to catch flying sparks and prevent rolling logs. Ensure that all stoves and smoke removal vent pipes are located far enough from combustible walls and ceilings, are installed properly



and are maintained in good repair. Eliminate possible youth burns by removing all tempting items from the vicinity of the fireplace or wood stove, and keep all matches and lighters locked up and inaccessible to children.

Heaters

Electric baseboard and portable electric heaters should be properly installed by a licensed electrician and located per the manufacturer's recommendations. All equipment purchased should be UL listed and all combustible items such as drapes, furniture, bedding and clothing must be stored at least three feet from each heater. When purchasing a portable space heater, look for an automatic shut-off feature that turns off the unit should it accidentally tip over. Be sure all electrical supply cords are intact, grounded and capable of handling the load of the heating unit. Power supply cords should not be run under carpets or furniture, as they may generate heat and cause a fire. If an electric heater smokes

Don't Ruin Your Winter
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Each floor, each bedroom and outside each sleeping area should have a smoke detector.

or smells as if it is burning, turn off the power source immediately.

Liquid propane gas heaters, vented or un-vented, should be examined yearly by a qualified service technician. Provide for proper airflow in the building as LP gas heaters consume oxygen as they burn. Maintain a 3-foot clearance near the heater and keep the area free from combustible materials such as drapes, bedding materials and clothing. LP gas heaters should maintain a safety feature that provides for automatic shutoff if the oxygen levels reach 18% or below. Remember, never use conventional cooking stoves for heat.

Portable kerosene heaters must be used very carefully, as misuse of these units may cause a serious fire. Allow your heater to cool before refueling and only refuel outdoors. Use only kerosene, not gasoline or camp stove fuel as both explode easily. Designate a safety can for kerosene storage only. Even a small residue of gasoline burned in a kerosene heater can be disastrous. Provide an annual inspection of kerosene heaters by a knowledgeable and certified service technician.

Heat Pumps

Electric heat pumps are reliable heat sources and pose less of a hazard to the facility and residence. Ensure filters are changed at least monthly during use. It is normal for some odor during the first seasonal use of the heat pump; however if smoke is detected coming from vents or the odor of burnt insulation is detected, the building should be evacuated immediately.

Evacuate your house and call the fire department immediately by dialing 911 if:

- You detect smoke or fire, stay low to the floor and crawl to an exit
- You or others feel dizzy, have a persistent headache, nausea or other sickness

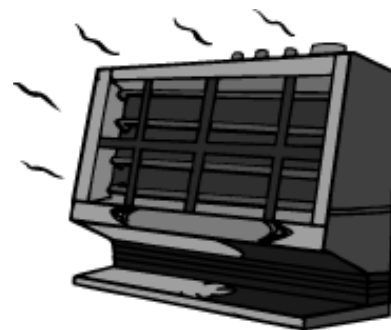
- Your smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector alerts

In closing, various types of heating equipment can give you years of reliable and safe service if used and maintained properly.

Note - please check with the Nags Head building and inspections staff before installing new or replacement heating units.

**For more information call
Nags Head Fire and Rescue
at 252-441-5909.**

Have a warm and safe winter season!



When purchasing a portable space heater, look for an automatic shut-off feature that turns off the unit should it accidentally tip over.

Septic Tank Inspection and Pumping Program

Available Until May 31, 2008



The Town, through independent contractors, is offering free septic system inspections for property owners of conventional onsite septic systems. Owners can contact Water Quality Coordinator Todd Krafft (252-449-6047 or krafft@townofnagshead.net) to order an inspection. After inspection results are received, the homeowner will be notified of the results and whether or not there is a need for tank pumping. There is no cost for the inspection.

Note: Due to terrain and location, there may be instances in which a septic tank cannot be found or a full inspection is not possible (i.e. under too much fill, under bushes/trees or tall beach grasses).

Pump-outs

If an inspection indicates a need for tank pumping, owners can contact a pumping firm of their choice. The Town only requires a copy of a paid invoice by May 31, 2008 for the property to receive a \$30 water account credit.

Repair/Replacement Loan Program

The cost for repairing and/or replacing septic systems has increased substantially over the last few years. To assist homeowners in septic tank repair/replacement, loans are now processed through the town.

The maximum loan amount is now \$5,000. Loan interest rates are set with a local bank and are based on the daily prime interest rate less 2.5% at the time a loan is processed with the town.

The Town of Nags Head Septic Health Initiative was created

to maintain clean water in and around the town by improving the performance of septic systems. The program has several components including a water quality monitoring program, a septic system maintenance program, and an education program aimed at system owners and users. For more information about the program please call 252-449-6047 or visit the Town's website at: www.townofnagshead.net.



What Not to Flush

Household Items

Coffee Grounds

Kitty Litter

Cigarette Butts

Sanitary Items

Dental Floss

Food Waste

Disposable Diapers

Hazardous Chemicals

Paints

Varnishes

Thinners

Oil

Pesticides

Photographic Solutions

Outer Banks Weather Makes Deck Safety Checks a Must

Weather conditions on the Outer Banks can be quite harsh and the salt environment takes its toll on everything, including decking. While winterizing your home this year, spend a few minutes looking for potential problems, especially if your decks are older than ten years. These problems usually fall into one of four categories. The following is a checklist that will help you discover a problem before it occurs.

•**Metal connectors** - look for rust or breaks in the metal.

•**Old wood** - the salt and sun can damage any wood. Look for splits, cracks or deteriorated (rotten) wood. Check all wood including stairs and rails.

•**Nailing** - even galvanized nails rust. This is especially important on the deck ledgers. Ledgers are the piece of wood that supports the deck joist.

•**Separations** - Look for gaps between framing members. The most common and probably the most dangerous to look for is the deck starting to pull away from the main house structure.

When all else fails, use common sense. If something appears to be failing on your deck, chances are it is. Just be



Weather conditions on the Outer Banks can be harsh and the salt environment can take its toll on everything, including decking.

observant. Take the time to make these checks to ensure the safety of your family or renters and friends who may stay at your home. These same common sense rules apply not only to second homes, but to permanent homes as well.

If you have concerns about your decks or anything else related to your home, feel free to contact the Inspections Department at Town Hall. One of our building inspectors will schedule a time to try and help you by either attempting to identify potential problems or easing your worry. This service is free to Nags Head property owners.

Street Addressing Update

The summer 2007 newsletter discussed methods of using street addressing to help public safety find your home or business in an emergency. We would like to update a few points.

First, the address numbers can either be white numbers on a green background or green numbers on white background.

Second, the Town's Community Watch Association will soon be selling street address numbers through the Nags Head Police Division. For more information, please contact the Nags Head Police Division at 252-441-6386.



Deck Safety
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Feel free to call the Nags Head Planning and Development Department (Inspections) at 252-441-7016 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss either the potential problem you have observed or to schedule a site visit.



Meet Becky Huff

Nags Head's New Tax Collector Brings Smiles and Hard Work to the Job

If you have a tax question or if you run a business in Nags Head, you will probably meet the Town's new tax collector, Becky Huff. On the job since September, Becky has already been hard at work maintaining the Town's high tax collection rate as well as managing privilege (business) licenses, which are required for anyone operating a business in Nags Head.

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Becky lives in Kill Devil Hills with her 15 year old son Micky and her husband, Doug, who works for Nags Head's Public Works department. Becky, formerly with the Town of Kitty Hawk, has several years of experience in governmental accounting so she was able to assimilate into her new job very quickly. "The experience Becky brings to her job, coupled with her friendly confidence, is just what the Town needs in a tax collector," said Finance Officer Kim Kenny.

So, next time you renew your privilege license or have a tax question, ask for Becky Huff - she'll be ready to help with a smile on her face (her smile might not be so evident if you are paying your taxes late).



RECYCLING INFORMATION

Collection Centers

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nags Head Town Hall | 8 a.m. - Sunset (Daily) |
| Nags Head Public Works | 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. M-F |
| Huron St. Public Beach Access | Daily |

Neighborhood Collection Points

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Hours | 10 a.m. - Sunset |
|-------|------------------|

| | |
|--------|---|
| Mon. | Baltic St. Beach Access |
| Tues. | Town Park (West at Barnes St.) |
| Thurs. | Windjammer Rd. (North Ridge) |
| Fri. | Old Nags Head Cove at Danube St. Sound Access |

Town Boards and Committees

Board of Commissioners

Mayor M. Renée Cahoon; Mayor Pro Tem Anna D. Sadler; Wayne Gray; Bob Oakes; and Doug Remaley

Planning Board

Gervas “Bo” Taylor, Chair; Robert Edwards, Vice-Chair; David Oaksmith; Susie Walters; Carl “Pogie” Worsley; and Angelina Lowe

Board of Adjustments

Jack Cooper, Chair; Margaret Suppler, Vice-Chair; Alvin Hibbs; Susan Boncek; and Annette Ratzenberger. Alternates are Deborah Bryant and Russell Lay

Note

Serve your community by volunteering for a Town board or committee. Applications are kept on file for consideration by the Board of Commissioners when vacancies occur. If interested, please call the Town Clerk at 252-449-2009 or obtain an application from www.townofnagshead.net.

Personnel Grievance Panel

John Ratzenberger; Lanny Roof; Perry White; and George Barnes

Citizens Advisory Committee

John Ratzenberger, Chair; Russell Lay, Vice-Chair; Susan Boncek; Deborah Bryant; Mark Dunlevy; Cliff Ogburn; John White; Dennis Mabe; Ed Mays; and Marty Moore

Municipal Complex Information

Town Manager

Charles L. Cameron

Deputy Town Manager

Bill Richardson

Public Safety Director

Charles L. Cameron

Planning and Development Director

Tim L. Wilson

Public Works Director

Dave Clark

Finance Officer

Kim Kenny

Town Clerk

Carolyn F. Morris

Public Information

5401 S. Croatan Highway
Administration, Finance/Tax, Water Billing, Planning/
Development
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-441-5508, Email: info@townofnagshead.net

Public Works

2200 Lark Avenue
Public Facilities Maintenance, Sanitation, Fleet Maintenance,
Water Distribution and Operations
Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
252-441-1122
Email: publicworks@townofnagshead.net

Police

Emergency **9-1-1**
Non Emergency 252-473-3444
5401 S. Croatan Highway
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-441-6386, Fax 252-441-7335
Email: police@townofnagshead.net

Fire and Ocean Rescue

Emergency **9-1-1**
Non Emergency 252-473-3444
Fire Station 16, 5314 S. Croatan Highway
24 Hours, 252-441-5909, Fax 252-441-8268
Fire Station 21, 8806 S. Old Oregon Inlet Road
24 Hours, 252-441-2910, Fax 252-441-3978
Email: fire@townofnagshead.net



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Town Meeting Calendar

Agendas for Board of Commissioners meetings are published in advance in *The Coastland Times*. All meetings will be held in the Board Room unless otherwise specified. Agenda and background material for the Board of Commissioners meetings can be found on the Town's web site at www.townofnagshead.net.

| <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Times</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Daytime | | |
| Board of Commissioners | January 9, February 6, March 5 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Citizens Advisory Committee (meets quarterly) | January 14, April 14, July 14 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Board of Adjustments (meets as necessary) | January 10, February 14, March 13 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Nighttime | | |
| Board of Commissioners** | January 23, February 20, March 19 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Planning Board | January 15, February 19, March 18 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Community Watch Meeting | January 8, February 12, March 11 | 7:00 p.m. |

** Adjourned session meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held as necessary. Check newspaper listings, call Town Hall at 252-441-5508, or check the Town web site for more information.

The Personnel Grievance Panel meets as needed. Visit the Town web site for current meeting information.